

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), distinguished chairman of our Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, having just arrived from a long airplane trip from Oregon, I can tell my colleagues that the eyes of the Pacific Northwest are upon us at this time.

The urgency, I know, has been identified here, but, for instance, Pakistan is on the verge of a purchase of some 350,000 metric tons of wheat. I am sure it has been identified that sanctions were never to include food purchases and even the unintended result was voiced by the administration when the President has introduced this and supported this kind of legislation.

So, without further ado, Mr. Speaker, we hope that we can rush this along, even move it to the other body within the hour and it can become law, a great benefit, by the way, to a great country that needs to sell wheat, the United States, and a great country, Pakistan, who, by the way, is buying wheat for half the price it paid last year. Both our benefits are met.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2282, the Agriculture Export Relief Act of 1998. This bill will allow our agriculture exporters to continue to sell food and fertilizer to India and Pakistan, both of whom are subject to sanctions under the Arms Export Control Act for conducting nuclear tests.

Let's be clear here. This is not an argument about either of these countries conducting nuclear tests and raising tensions in this region of the world. I deplore their unilateral decisions to conduct tests, and urge both countries to comply with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. But, without this legislation, our farmers will be shut out of these growing export markets, unable to sell their products, and thus unable to meet their own financial obligations. This could lead to job losses and bankruptcies throughout rural America.

The sad truth is that we created this problem ourselves. We enacted a sanctions law with noble purposes—among them stopping the spread of nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, this law, like most laws imposing unilateral sanctions, didn't work. It didn't stop India and Pakistan from nuclear testing. Yet our farmers and ranchers continue to pay the price.

Unfortunately, this Congress seems to be far more willing to impose unilateral economic sanctions as the foreign policy solution to practically all of our international problems. And the fact is—they rarely work! When we pull out of a foreign market or refuse to trade with foreign countries our foreign competitors love it! U.S. products are quickly and easily replaced by foreign goods while U.S. business is forced to stand on the sidelines. And, unfortunately, unilateral sanctions rarely result in the political changes we want.

Now I am not saying that economic sanctions should never be imposed. They can be an effective tool of foreign policy, particularly when applied selectively and multilaterally. Be we in Congress should remember that they are just a tool—not the ultimate solution.

I would urge my colleagues to support this bill. I also hope many of you will take a hard look at a measure introduced by myself, Representative HAMILTON and Representative CRANE—the Enhancement of Trade, Security, and Human Rights through Sanctions Reform Act. Our legislation would not stop Congress from imposing sanctions, but would require a careful analysis of sanctions' costs and benefits before they are imposed. It would provide a rational, reasoned approach to our sanctions policy to help make sure that we do not find ourselves once again in the difficult situation we are trying to fix today.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2282, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Commerce:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the Comprehensive National Energy Strategy (Strategy) to the Congress. This report required by section 801 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (Public Law 95-91; 42 U.S.C. 7321(b)), highlights our national energy policy. It contains specific objectives and plans for meeting five essential, common sense goals enumerated in the accompanying message from Secretary Peña.

Energy is a global commodity of strategic importance. It is also a key contributor to our economic performance, and its production and use affect the environment in many ways. Thus, affordable, adequate, and environmentally benign supplies of energy are critical to our Nation's economic, environmental, and national security.

The Strategy reflects the emergence and interconnection of three pre-eminent challenges in the late 1990s: how to maintain energy security in increasingly globalized energy markets; how to harness competition in energy markets both here and abroad; and how to respond to local and global environmental concerns, including the threat of climate change. The need for research and development underlies the Strategy, which incorporates recommendations of my Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) for improvements in energy

technologies that will enable the United States to address our energy-related challenges. Advances in energy technology can strengthen our economy, reduce our vulnerability to oil shocks, lower the cost of energy to consumers, and cut emissions of air pollutants as well as greenhouse gases.

This Strategy was developed over several months in an open process. Three public hearings were held earlier this year in California, Texas, and Washington, D.C., and more than 300 public comments were received. This Strategy is not a static document; its specifics can be modified to reflect evolving conditions, while the framework provides policy guidance into the 21st century. My Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to implement the Strategy and to achieve its goals in the most effective manner possible.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 14, 1998.

□ 1730

26TH ANNUAL REPORT ON FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES, FISCAL YEAR 1997—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

To the Congress of the United States:

As provided by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (Public Law 92-463; 5 U.S.C. App. 2, 6(c)), I am submitting the *Twenty-sixth Annual Report on Federal Advisory Committees*, covering fiscal year 1997.

Consistent with my commitment to create a more responsive government, the executive branch continues to implement my policy of maintaining the number of advisory committees within the ceiling of 534 required by Executive Order 12838 of February 10, 1993. As a result, the number of discretionary advisory committees (established under general congressional authorizations) was held to 467, or 42 percent fewer than those 801 committees in existence at the beginning of my Administration.

Through the advisory committee planning process required by Executive Order 12838, the total number of advisory committees specifically mandated by statute has declined. The 391 such groups supported at the end of fiscal year 1997 represents a 4 percent decrease over the 407 in existence at the end of fiscal year 1996. Compared to the 439 advisory committees mandated by statute at the beginning of my Administration, the net total for fiscal year 1997 reflects an 11 percent decrease since 1993.

Furthermore, my Administration will assure that the total estimated

costs to fund these groups in fiscal year 1998, or \$43.8 million, are dedicated to support the highest priority public involvement efforts. We will continue to work with the Congress to assure that all advisory committees that are required by statute are regularly reviewed through the congressional reauthorization process and that any such new committees proposed through legislation are closely linked to national interests.

Combined savings achieved through actions taken by the executive branch to eliminate unneeded advisory committees during fiscal year 1997 were \$2.7 million, including \$545,000 saved through the termination of five advisory committees established under Presidential authority.

During fiscal year 1997, my Administration successfully worked with the Congress to clarify further the applicability of FACA to committees sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA). This initiative resulted in the enactment of the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 1997 (Public Law 105-153), which I signed into law on December 17, 1997. The Act provides for new and important means for the public and other interested stakeholders to participate in activities undertaken by committees established by the Academies in support of executive branch decisionmaking processes.

As FACA enters its second quarter-century during fiscal year 1998, it is appropriate for both the Congress and my Administration to continue examining opportunities for strengthening the Act's role in encouraging and promoting public participation. Accordingly, I am asking the Administrator of General Services to prepare a legislative proposal for my consideration that addresses an overall policy framework for leveraging the public's role in Federal decisionmaking through a wide variety of mechanisms, including advisory committees.

By jointly pursuing this goal, we can fortify what has been a uniquely American approach toward collaboration. As so aptly noted by Alexis de Tocqueville in *Democracy in America* (1835), "In democratic countries knowledge of how to combine is the mother of all other forms of knowledge; on its progress depends that of all the others." This observation strongly resonates at this moment in our history as we seek to combine policy opportunities with advances in collaboration made possible by new technologies, and an increased desire of the Nation's citizens to make meaningful contributions to their individual communities and their country.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 14, 1998.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 442 and rule

XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2183.

□ 1730

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes, with Mr. SHIMKUS (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Friday, June 19, 1998, pending was an amendment numbered 82 by the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) to amendment number 13 by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS). Is there further debate on the amendment?

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to strike the requisite number of words.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Chairman, this is the amendment that basically protects voter guides to be distributed by groups. The Shays-Meehan bill severely chills the freedom of speech in this regard and places restrictions that will subject anybody currently distributing voter guides to second-guessing by a Federal czar, and the imposition of sanctions should the second-guessing be interpreted as a violation of the provisions of the Shays-Meehan law.

For this reason I have offered this amendment to make clear that organizations that do voter guides are exempt from the application of this law and may continue to issue their voter guides without fear of chilling their freedom of speech or of being intimidated. And the intimidation that I am talking about is the intimidation of having to spend \$400,000 or \$500,000 in attorneys' fees and months of disruption of schedules preparing for depositions, et cetera, for the act of exercising their right of free speech protected by our United States constitution, and which I feel the Shays-Meehan bill impinges upon. For that reason I have offered this amendment.

I have, Mr. Chairman, an illustration of a voter guide. If I may, I am going to switch positions here to bring that up and illustrate it. This is an illustration of a 1994 Christian Coalition voter guide for the Iowa Congressional district, district number 4, the district of the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE). This is distributed, as I am sure Members know, typically in churches.

The Christian Coalition describes itself as a pro-family organization. This includes different positions on

issues, from Federal income taxes, the balanced budget amendment, taxpayer funding of abortion, parental notification for abortions by minors, voluntary prayer in public schools, homosexuals in the military, promoting homosexuality to schoolchildren.

Now, the Shays-Meehan language that my amendment seeks to replace says that an organization can only do voter guides in an educational manner, and in a way that no reasonable person could conclude that that group is advocating the election or defeat of a candidate. Well, it is quite clear from the context of this voter guide, it is distributed in churches, and the Christian Coalition describes itself in a statement down here, as a pro-family citizen action organization, quote-unquote.

So when we take those words in context, then, when they rank somebody as having a position on homosexuality in the schools or on abortion, that ranking could be interpreted by the Federal czar as advocating the defeat of a candidate and, therefore, as being proscribed. My amendment just protects this voter guide.

And I have heard several supporters, or I understand several supporters of Shays-Meehan have indicated in their opinion that this type of thing could continue to be distributed. I am just saying that based on the reading of the law as being proposed by Shays-Meehan and their supporters, it would not be allowed. That is why I am offering my amendment, to make clear that this can be allowed, so that organizations who do voter guides can characterize the positions of the candidates.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is going to bring up here another one from the NAACP, and that has zeros and heroes, I believe is the characterization. I think that ought to be able to continue to be allowed. It would be proscribed under Shays-Meehan. And for that reason, I think it needs to be amended in the way that I have proposed in order to allow the unfettered discussion to occur near election time by organizations exercising their first amendment rights to comment on candidates and on elections.

And that basically, Mr. Chairman, is the purpose of my amendment.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, what the previous speaker was indicating with the voter guide can easily be made available under the Shays-Meehan bill. It is not a problem in getting that type of voter guide out. It easily can be done, either in the method it is, or by very minor modifications. The problem with the amendment before us is that it would allow almost anything to be sent out and would gut the protection on express advocacy in the Shays-Meehan bill. That is the reason why we must oppose it.

There is already a provision in the underlying bill that allows for voter guides. Voter guides are permitted if